

Message Text

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HATHAWAY, USDA, FROM WILHELM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, RP

SUBJECT: BRZEZINSKI'S MEMO

BELOW IS TEXT OF MEMORANDUM RECEIVED FROM Z. BRZEZINSKI/
WHITE HOUSE CONCERNING SECRETARY BERGLAND'S WORLD FOOD
COUNCIL SPEECH. THIS DOCUMENT JUST ARRIVED AND WE ARE
INCORPORATING THESE ITEMS INTO TEXT. REVISED TEXT WILL
BE TELEGRAPHED SHORTLY.

"YOUR PRESENCE AT THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL IN JUNE PRESENTS
AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO PRESS FORWARD WITH SOME
MAJOR ADMINISTRATION FOREIGN POLICY THEMES AS THEY
RELATE TO OUTSTANDING ISSUES BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IN PARTICULAR, THE FORUM SEEMS
HIGHLY SUITED TO EXPAND UPON THE "BASIC HUMAN NEEDS"
THEME WHICH THE PRESIDENT HAS SOUNDED IN HIS UNITED
NATIONS AND NOTRE DAME SPEECHES, AND WHICH THE SECRETARY
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OF STATE HAS ELABORATED RECENTLY AT THE CIEC MINISTERIAL
IN PARIS AND WILL BE DISCUSSING FURTHER AT THE OECD
MINISTERIAL.

MANY ELEMENTS OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S APPROACH TO THE
"ABSOLUTE POVERTY" PROBLEM -- THE BASIC HUMAN NEEDS
PROBLEM -- ARE INTIMATELY RELATED TO THE AGENDA OF THE

WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. SINCE THREE-QUARTERS OF THE WORLD'S "ABSOLUTE POVERTY" POPULATION LIVES IN RURAL AREAS, AND SINCE THE "LIFE CHANCES" OF THE VAST MAJORITY OF THEM ARE TIED TO INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND PROGRAMS OF REFORM OF RURAL HEALTH AND EDUCATION FACILITIES AND AGRICULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE, THE MANILA CONFERENCE IS WELL SUITED TO A FURTHER ITERATION OF U.S. GOALS IN THE "BASIC HUMAN NEEDS" AREA.

I SUGGEST THEREFORE THAT YOU MIGHT WISH TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING GENERAL OBSERVATIONS IN YOUR OWN LANGUAGE.

(1) WHILE THE WORLD UNDOUBTEDLY NEEDS SOME FORM OF GRAIN RESERVE SYSTEM, WHAT THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES NEED MOST OF ALL IS TO DEVELOP GREATER CAPACITY FOR DOMESTIC FOOD PRODUCTION.

(2) BREAKTHROUGHS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION ARE INTIMATELY LINKED TO A "BASIC HUMAN NEEDS" APPROACH IN TWO CRUCIAL WAYS:

(A) MORE FOOD WILL BE AVAILABLE TO INCREASE NUTRITION LEVELS FOR THE POOREST STRATA OF DEVELOPING COUNTRY POPULATIONS, AND

(B) MORE PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE CREATED FOR THIS SAME POPULATION GROUP -- THREE-QUARTERS OF WHOM LIVE IN RURAL AREAS.
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(3) THE UNITED STATES IS AWARE THAT PROGRAMS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE POOREST DO NOT ALWAYS WORK THE WAY THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO; E.G., FEW NEW JOBS ARE CREATED IF CAPITAL-INTENSIVE TECHNOLOGIES ARE USED.

(4) THEREFORE, THE UNITED STATES HOPES TO PERSUADE ITS OECD ASSOCIATES AT THE LATE JUNE MINISTERIAL TO BEGIN TO FASHION A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO A "BASIC HUMAN NEEDS" STRATEGY, AND TO PRESENT THIS IDEA FOR GLOBAL DISCUSSION IN APPROPRIATE VENUES WITHIN THE COMING YEAR.

(5) A CRUCIAL ELEMENT IN THIS APPROACH WILL BE THE ENHANCED ROLE OF THE LDC'S IN GLOBAL FOOD PRODUCTION, IN WAYS WHICH STRENGTHEN THE BASIC HUMAN NEEDS PROGRAM WITH THE SUPPORT OF AN APPROPRIATE GRAIN RESERVE PROGRAM WHICH CAN SERVE AS "INSURANCE" FOR THOSE COUNTRIES WILLING TO UNDERTAKE THE REFORMS WHICH A BASIC HUMAN

NEEDS APPROACH WILL REQUIRE.

WHILE MANY OF THESE IDEAS MAY ALREADY FORM PART OF YOUR OWN THINKING, I OFFER THEM SIMPLY TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO USE THE MANILA FORUM TO DEMONSTRATE THE CONSISTENCY OF U.S. THINKING WITH REGARD TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THE GLOBAL SYSTEM INTO WHICH WE ARE SEEKING TO BUILD." CHRISTOPHER

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